

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed April 27, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims

Newly added claims 65-71 replace previously pending claims 44-50.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 44 – 64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fujita et al. (U.S. pat. no. 6,118,435, hereinafter, “Fujita”). Claims 44-64 have now been canceled in favor of claims 65-71. Claim 65, from which the remaining claims depend, recites, *inter alia*, direct coupling of the piezoelectric actuator to the touch screen, which is supported for instance in the examples of FIGS. 5 and 6 of applicant’s disclosure, and also in page 12, lines 4-6 of the specification (“Touchpad 16 is directly coupled to a grounded piezo-electric actuator 42 which operates to produce a force on the touchpad 16 when an electrical signal ins input to the actuator.”) Such direct coupling is not disclosed in Fujita. Rather, Fujita couples driving portion 5 to touch panel 3 by way of support plate 4 and switch 6, as shown in FIG. 1. Alternatively, Fujita couples lock mechanism 34 to touch panel 23 by way of support plate 26 (FIGS. 5 and 8). In either case, there is no direct coupling of a piezoelectric actuator to a touch screen as presently claimed, nor is there any suggestion of such direct coupling in Fujita. Direct coupling allows for a more compact profile, which is important in devices whose appeal resides in their miniature size, for reasons of convenience and robustness.

Conclusion


In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that claims 65-71 of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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